

Date: Friday 15th May 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

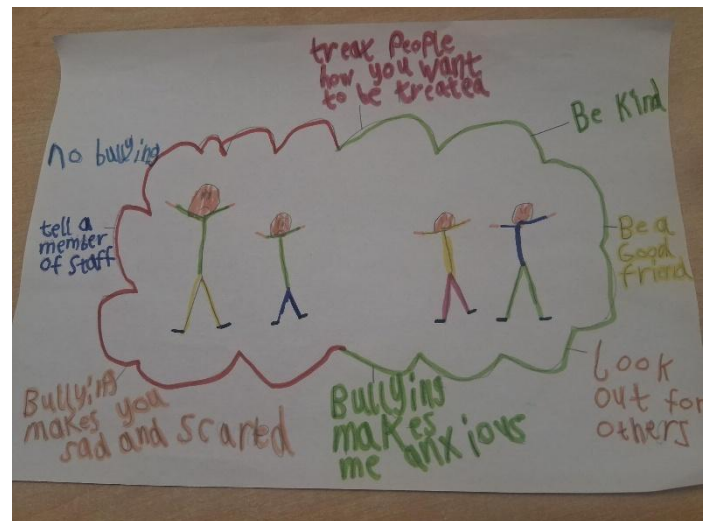
Week: 18th – 22nd May 2026
<p><u>Monday 18th May</u> Yr7 London Trip Orange, Violet & Silver class School Council meeting Shopping Trip- Pre Voc Yr10 Science exam- Red</p> <p><u>Tuesday 19th May</u> Teacher Interviews Level 1 Maths exam ICT exam Yr10 Science exam Shopping trip to Food Warehouse- Yr10</p> <p><u>Wednesday 20th May</u> Waste Not Want Not DofE Practice Walk Yr10 Science exam Fairlands Picnic Student Council</p> <p><u>Thursday 21st May</u> KS3 Swimming Yr11 College Yr11 Workshop- Herts Young Homeless Next Steps DofE Volunteering Yr9 Coffee Morning Girls Football Tournament at The Valley</p>
UPCOMING EVENTS
<p><u>Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May</u> HALF TERM</p>

This week has been a particularly uplifting one for our school community. On Monday, we welcomed our Local Authority School Effectiveness Advisor for a series of Learning Walks alongside two members of the Senior Leadership Team. I am delighted to share that the outcomes were exceptionally positive. The SEA observed quality-first teaching in every classroom visited, with no exceptions. He also commented on the outstanding learning behaviours demonstrated by our students, whose focus, engagement and enthusiasm were evident throughout. It was especially pleasing to hear his recognition that students across all levels are making excellent progress.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 and Year 10 students are thoughtfully navigating the process of selecting their options for next year—a significant milestone in shaping their future pathways. Year 9 also enjoyed a fantastic trip to London this week, where they explored the Science Museum and deepened their curiosity about the world around them.

8 Navy – Police Cadets

This term, 8 Navy have been taking part in Police Cadets sessions, where they have been learning about bullying, the impact it can have on others, and the importance of kindness and respect. As part of this work, students created their own posters to help raise awareness about bullying and share the key messages they have been learning. They worked incredibly hard on their designs and showed great creativity, thought, and understanding throughout the project. We are very proud of the effort they have put into both the discussions and their fantastic posters.



Year 10 Coral Work Experience

This week, our Year 10 students took part in Work Experience Week, gaining valuable real-world skills and making a positive contribution to the local community. Year 10 Coral embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and showed excellent teamwork throughout.

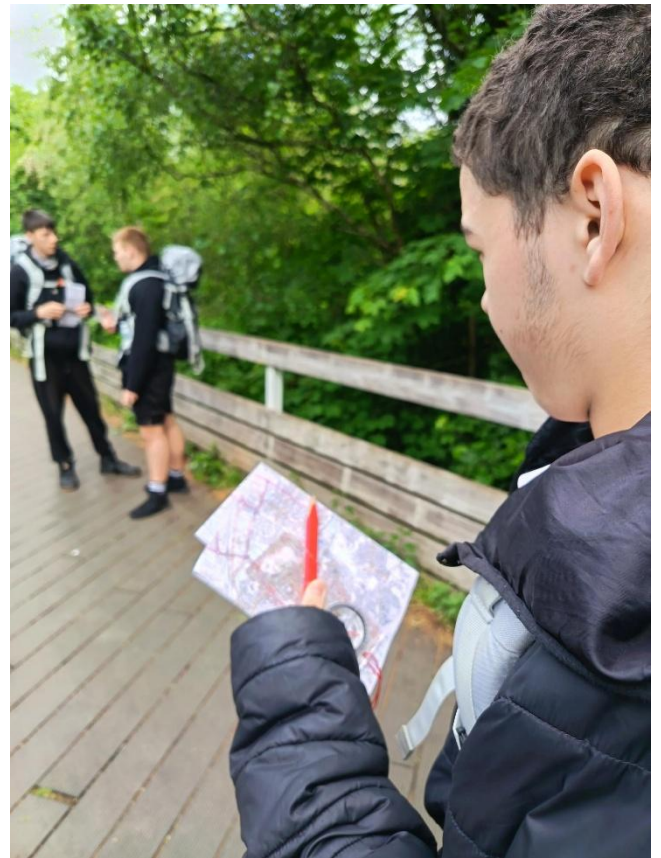
Students were involved in a variety of activities. Some supported the local area through litter picking, demonstrating a real sense of civic pride and responsibility. Others had the exciting opportunity to work with the grounds staff at Stevenage Football Club, where they helped with practical tasks such as cleaning spectator seating and maintaining the stadium environment. It was wonderful to see the students working collaboratively, supporting one another, and enjoying new experiences alongside their friends. Well done to Year 10 Coral for representing the school so positively.



Duke of Edinburgh Practice Walk

We are delighted to share highlights from our recent Duke of Edinburgh practice walk. Students successfully navigated one loop of the course, covering an impressive four miles without any problems. Throughout the walk, all students took turns leading the group using their navigation skills, showing great teamwork, confidence, and resilience. It was fantastic to see them supporting one another and building their independence in an outdoor setting.

Based on this strong performance, we are confident that the group will be ready to complete a three-hour walk as they work towards achieving their qualification in the coming weeks. Well done to everyone involved!



Year 9 Art

Year 9 have been working with clay, creating some lovely decorative pieces and some very practical pieces too, such as this pinch pot made by Donald. Thank you to Ms Pullen for the mint plant which looks perfect inside!



Tag Rugby Festival at The Valley

On Thursday 14th May, we were proud to host a fantastic Tag Rugby Festival at The Valley, with Pinewood School joining us for an enjoyable morning of sport and competition.

Our boys represented the school brilliantly throughout the festival, demonstrating fast-paced attacking play, excellent teamwork and great organization in every match. Their communication, determination and sportsmanship were outstanding from start to finish.

The team remained unbeaten across all fixtures played, coming away victorious in every game. It was fantastic to see their hard work and commitment transferred on to the field so successfully.

A huge well done to all students involved and thank you to Pinewood



School for attending and contributing to such a positive and enjoyable festival.



Scientists in Year 9!

We had a fantastic trip to the Science Museum in London, where students explored and learned in a fun and exciting environment. In the Wonderlab, they enjoyed trying out a range of hands-on experiments, discovering how science works through play and investigation.

Afterwards, we visited the Space exhibition and saw the Rocket Show, where students learned about planets, rockets, and space travel. They showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions about what they saw.

All students behaved beautifully throughout the visit and were fully engaged in the activities. It was a wonderful day of learning and discovery for everyone involved.



Year 9 Coffee Morning

The Year 9 Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 21st May from 9:30–10:30am. This informal session will provide an opportunity to meet staff, view students' work, and gain an insight into the Year 9 learning environment.

An invitation and sign-up form have been sent to Year 9 parents and carers. Please ensure you register your attendance so that we can prepare for your visit.



Stevenage Cycling Hub – May 2026 Update

New Funding Available

Thanks to Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival, FREE sessions are available on selected days:

- Cycle Training (2 hrs) – Learn to ride or build skills (not available in family sessions)
- Roadside Repairs (1 hr) – Learn puncture repair and basic bike maintenance
- Led Ride (1 hr) – Guided ride with experienced instructors

Bookings Open

- May half-term sessions and additional 1:1 lessons are now available
- More sessions may be added—check the website regularly
- Summer training dates will be released by half term



Upcoming Events

- 14 June: Stevenage Day – King George's Playing Fields
- 28 June: Summer Ride for All
- 18 July: Peartree Skate Park Event
- 22 October: Glow Ride (details to follow)

Inspirational Speaker

On Friday 8th May we had a visitor, Miller Flannagan, attend school to talk to our children about how having a disability does not have to limit what you can achieve. Students sat through an informative and inspirational talk from Miller about his struggles with Cerebral Palsy and how he is raising awareness among young people and helping children and adults through his business – Para is Power.

“Through my lived experience and my story, I have started a business called ‘Para is Power’, where I support children and adults with a disability, through strength and conditioning training.

Helping that person to achieve their goals, physically or mentally, as I aim to spread awareness, and show having a disability and being strong can go together, and for everyone to be proud of the person they are regardless.”

If you would be interested in finding more out about what Miller can do to support yourself or someone you know please drop him an email: enquiries@paraispower.com



After-School Clubs

After-school activities start at 3.15pm and go on until 4.15pm. Parents will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception.

The clubs on offer are as follows:

Tuesday

Learn to Cycle Club (max.14) - This club is designed for students who are not yet confident riding a bicycle and would benefit from additional support.

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

Thursday

Art and Craft Club (max. 14)

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be sent as a separate email to this newsletter. If your child is on this list, then it means that we have received your permission and that arrangements regarding transport home for your child have been agreed with you. If this is not the case, you need to contact admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk so we can address any anomalies well before the evening.

Students will not be able to join a club after this list has been published until the following week as organising transport and supervision is too complex to do well with very short notice.

Thank you for your support with this.